

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CARACA 01811 241629Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----019725 241634Z /53  
O 241530Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1305

S E C R E T CARACAS 1811

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)  
SUBJECT: THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP: PROPOSED SCHEDULE  
FOR CARACAS

REF: STATE 42626 CARACAS 1666

1. AMBASSADOR AND DCM MET WITH VICE MINISTER  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CHIEF OF PROTOCOL AND SECGEN OF  
PRESIDENCY ON FEB 22 TO REVIEW PROPOSED SCHEDULE.  
REACTION OF THESE SENIOR OFFICIALS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

A) WREATH LAYING AT TOMB OF BOLIVAR (PANTHEON)B:  
THERE IS A LONG AND HALLOWED VENEZUELAN TRADITION  
THAT VISITING CHIEFS OF STATE SHOULD PAY THIS HOMAGE  
TO "THE LIBERATOR" AS THE FIRST ACT OF AN OFFICIAL  
VISIT. IF THE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. IGNORES THIS  
TRADITION, IT WILL INEVITABLY BE ATTRIBUTED BY ANTI-  
U.S. ELEMENTS TO AMERICAN INSENSITIVITY. ALSO, LARGE  
GROUPS OF SPECTATORS ARE MORE LIKELY TO ASSEMBLE IN  
THE AFTERNOON THAN AT 8:15 AM AS PROPOSED.  
EMBASSY COMMENT: WE AGREE THAT SCHEDULING WREATH-  
LAYING FIRST AVOIDS A POTENTIAL PITFALL. WE WOULD  
LIKEWISE EXPECT MUCH BETTER CROWDS AT PANTHEON IN  
AFTERNOON THAN IN EARLY MORNING. WE THEREFORE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CARACA 01811 241629Z

PROPOSE RESCHEDULING WREATH LAYING FOR TUESDAY  
AFTERNOON, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ARRIVAL CEREMONY.

B) SPEECH TO CONGRESS: TIME ALLOWED IN  
PROPOSED SCHEDULE IS INSUFFICIENT TO PERMIT INTRO-  
DUCTORY REMARKS BY PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS. EMBASSY  
COMMENT: WE AGREE AND RECOMMEND LENGTHENING TIME

AT CONGRESS BY 10 MINUTES.

C) SPECIAL WORKING SESSION: GOV OFFICIALS

MAINTAIN THAT TWO ONE-HOUR BILATERALS ARE INSUFFICIENT, AND THAT SECOND SESSION SHOULD RUN 90 MINUTES. BY ELIMINATING WREATH LAYING ON MARCH 29, SECOND WORKING SESSION COULD BEGIN AT BREAKFAST IN LA CASONA AND CONTINUE UNTIL PRESIDENT'S DEPARTURE DIRECTLY FROM LA CASONA TO MAIQUETIA AIRPORT, OR MEETING WITH PRESS (SEE D. BELOW). EMBASSY COMMENT: WE AGREE THAT THIS WOULD CONSERVE TRAVEL TIME AND PROVIDE VALUABLE ADDITIONAL TIME FOR SECOND WORKING SESSION.

D) INFORMAL MEETING WITH LOCAL PRESS: GOV

OFFICIALS INSIST THAT AT LEAST A BRIEF, INFORMAL MEETING WITH THE LOCAL PRESS WOULD BE HIGHLY IMPORTANT. THE TWO PRESIDENTS COULD HAVE SUCH A MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SECOND WORKING SESSION ON MARCH 29. EMBASSY COMMENT: GIVEN THE STRONG WISH OF THE GOV THAT THE PRESIDENT HAVE SOME CONTACT WITH THE LOCAL PRESS, WE RECOMMEND THAT THIS PROPOSAL BE ACCEPTED. SINCE THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH THE PREVIOUS DAY WILL ALREADY HAVE BEEN COVERED BY THE MEDIA ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 29, COVERAGE OF THE PRESS MEETING WOULD COME LATER AND THUS NOT DETRACT FROM IMPACT OF SPEECH.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 CARACA 01811 241629Z

2. THE FOLLOWING REVISED SCHEDULE INCORPORATES THE FOREGOING SUGGESTIONS. IT ASSUMES A DEPARTURE FROM ANDREWS AFB 30 MINUTES EARLIER THAN PROPOSED IN STATE 42626.

TUESDAY, MARCH 28

7:30 AM DEPART ANDREWS AFB

12:45 PM ARRIVE SIMON BOLIVAR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (MAIQUETIA)

1:25 PM MOTORCADE DEPARTS AIRPORT FOR PANTHEON

1:50 PM ARRIVE PANTHEON FOR WREATH LAYING

2:10 PM MOTORCADE DEPARTS FOR CONGRESS

2:20 PM ARRIVE AT CONGRESS. PRIVATE TIME FOR PRESIDENT CARTER

2:40 PM WELCOMING CEREMONIES, INTRODUCTION BY PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

3:05 SPEECH TO CONGRESS

3:25 PM REMARKS CONCLUDED

3:55 PM MOTORCADE DEPARTS CONGRESS FOR MIRAFLORES PALACE

3:45 PM MOTORCADE ARRIVES AT MIRAFLORES PALACE. BEGIN BILATERAL

4:45 BILATERAL ENDS. MOTORCADE DEPARTS FOR LA CASONA

5:10 PM ARRIVE AT LA CASONA. PRIVATE TIME FOR PRESIDENT CARTER

7:10 PM PROCEED TO DINNER

7:15 GREET GUESTS

7:30 DINNER BEGINS

9:00 DINNER CONCLUDES

9:05 COFFEE

9:30 ENTERTAINMENT BEGINS

10:00 PM ENTERTAINMENT ENDS. PRESIDENT CARTER MEETS WITH ADDITIONAL GUESTS

10:30 PM PRESIDENT CARTER RETIRES FOR NIGHT AND GUESTS DEPART.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

8:00 AM WORKING BREAKFAST WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ AT LA CASONA

9:30 AM PRESIDENT CARTER AND PRESIDENT PEREZ MEET PRESS INFORMALLY AT LA CASONA

10:00 AM PRESS MEETING ENDS

10:05 AM DEPART TO AIRPORT

10:35 ARRIVE AT AIRPORT. DEPARTURE CEREMONY  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 CARACA 01811 241629Z

10:50 AM PRESIDENT CARTER BOARDS AIR FORCE ONE

10:55 AM AIR FORCE ONE DEPARTS CARACAS

3. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE CONCURRENCE OR  
COMMENTS REGARDING PROPOSED SCHEDULE AS REVISED.  
VAKY

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978CARACA01811  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780086-0469  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** CARACAS  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780218/aaaaaoyh.tel  
**Line Count:** 142  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** a4d838d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 42626  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 jul 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3491892  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP: PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR CARACAS  
**TAGS:** OVIP, (CARTER, JIMMY)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/a4d838d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014